

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed January 5, 2007, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. Claims 1-41 were previously pending in this application with claims 1, 27 and 41 being independent claims. Claims 1, 7, 8, 12, 16-18, 20-22, 27 and 31 have been amended. Claim 6 has been cancelled. No new matter has been added.

Telephone Interview with the Examiner

Applicants' representative, Melissa A. Beede, thanks Examiner Le for her courtesy in conducting a telephone interview held on April 4, 2007. During the interview, Applicants' representative discussed with the Examiner the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103. Specifically, Applicants' representative discussed the arguments and proposals set forth in the Interview Agenda dated April 2, 2007, a copy of which is attached hereto. Applicants' representative and the Examiner did not reach agreement on the arguments or proposals.

However, the Examiner stated that the application could be placed into condition for allowance by amending claim 1 to include the subject matter of claims 6 and 7, and amending independent claim 27 in a similar manner. The Examiner stated that independent claim 41 was allowable in its present form.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of claims 6 and 7, and amended claim 27 to include the subject matter of claim 31 (which is the same as the subject matter of claim 7; the subject matter of claim 6 is already recited in claim 27). Claim 6 has been cancelled. Claims 7 and 31 have been amended in view of the amendments to claims 1 and 27, respectively. Claims 8, 12, 16-18 and 20-22 have been amended to depend from claim 1, rather than claim 6, in view of the incorporation of the subject matter of claim 6 into claim 1 and the cancellation of claim 6.

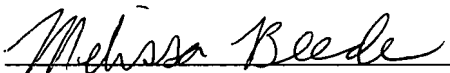
CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Dated: April 20, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
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Enclosures

WGS Date: x05/05/07x